



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Front Street Shipyard Partners with Norwegian Ferry Builder**

**BELFAST, ME – OCTOBER 20, 2015** – Front Street Shipyard in Belfast, Maine, is partnering with Brødrene Aa in Hyen, Norway, to market, sell and build carbon fiber ferries throughout the United States under the new company name Arcadia Alliance. Working in conjunction with Maine Composites Alliance and Martin Grimnes, a Norwegian composites expert living in Maine, Arcadia Alliance is marketing its highly efficient ferries to state and federal agencies seeking to replace aging, inefficient passenger vessels.

Brødrene Aa currently designs and builds carbon-fiber passenger vessels in its 86,000-square foot Norwegian facility situated along a fjord. The company has built 50 carbon ferries to date. Unlike U.S. ferries built of aluminum or fiberglass, Brødrene Aa's carbon fiber ferries are lightweight and consume less fuel, releasing fewer emissions into the air.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation, American ferries carry nearly 103 million passengers and just over 37 million vehicles per year.<sup>1</sup> "Given the significance of ferry transport to travelers in coastal regions coupled with concerns about gas consumption and emissions, efficiency of our country's ferries is critical," said JB Turner, president of Front Street Shipyard. "Brødrene Aa has a progressive design to reduce consumption and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov.bts/files/subject\\_areas/ncfo/highlights](https://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov.bts/files/subject_areas/ncfo/highlights)

emissions, and they have an exceptionally efficient construction method we can apply to the U.S. ferry market at Front Street Shipyard.”

Brødrene Aa is a 60-year-old company that introduced the world’s first carbon-fiber passenger vessel more than a decade ago. Representatives from Front Street Shipyard met with officers from Brødrene Aa in Hyen earlier this summer. “Given Front Street Shipyard’s modern facility and boatbuilding capabilities, we believe their team can deliver the same high-quality vessels in the United States that we produce in Norway,” said Leif Riksheim, chairman of the board at Brødrene Aa.

While the new partnership is in its early stages, Arcadia Alliance has launched a temporary website (at [arcadia-alliance.com](http://arcadia-alliance.com)) while the organizations work together to develop the ferry designs for U.S. waters. The Arcadia Alliance sales team will begin marketing the boats in earnest later this year, with hopes that Front Street Shipyard will be able to begin construction on the first fast ferry in 2016. Representatives from interested agencies can contact Arcadia Alliance at [info@arcadia-alliance.com](mailto:info@arcadia-alliance.com).

### **About Front Street Shipyard**

Front Street Shipyard is a premier boatbuilding, repair and service facility in Belfast, Maine, which offers dockage, repairs and winter storage for boats up to 200 feet and hauling capacity for vessels up to 485 tons. The yard has deep-water access for a range of power and sailing vessels from small boats to superyachts. With services from engine and systems maintenance to carpentry and advanced composite repair work, Front Street Shipyard is the most-capable full-service facility in the Northeast. More information about Front Street Shipyard is online at [www.frontstreetshipyard.com](http://www.frontstreetshipyard.com).

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